

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of June 26, 2007, Applicant has amended the claims, which when considered with the following remarks, is deemed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The amendments to the claims have been made in the interest of expediting prosecution of this case. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the same or similar subject matter in this or another application.

Claims 1-9, 11-27, 29-33 and 35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 24-27, 29, 30 and 35 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has allowed Claims 11-14 over the prior art of record. By this Amendment, Claims 2-4, 6-9 and 15-23 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11. Accordingly, amended Claims 2-4, 6-9, 15-23 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowed Claim 11, and immediate allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. Likewise, Claims 31-33 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 14. Accordingly, amended Claims 31-33 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowed Claim 14, and immediate allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added to the subject invention nor have any new issues been raised by these amendments. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the present Amended is deemed appropriate as it places the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Claim 35 has been cancelled herein. Accordingly, the rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 1-4, 15-18, 24-27, 29-33 and 35 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 18, 21-22, 24, 27, 30-39 and 41-44 of copending Application No. 10/779,419. Of these Claims, Claims 1, 24-27, 29, 30 and 35 have been cancelled and Claims 2-4 and 15-18 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11 and Claims 31-33 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 14. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 1-4, 17 and 18 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 20 and 22-25 of copending Application No. 10/699,529 in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0171226, Gatto. Of these claims, Claim 1 has been cancelled and Claims 2-4, 17 and 18 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 1-4, 6-9, 15-19, 24-27 and 29-30 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-12, 14-15, 18-23, 26-27, 29-32, 34-35 and 38-45 of copending Application No. 10/699,507 in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0171226, Gatto. Of these claims, Claims 1, 24-27, 29 and 30 have been cancelled and Claims 2-4, 6-9 and 15-19 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 1-4, 17-18, 24-27 and 29-30 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3, 6, 11-12, 15-18 and 20-23 of copending Application No. 10/699,508 in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0171226, Gatto. Of these claims, Claims 1, 24-27, 29 and 30 have been cancelled and Claims 2-4, 17 and 18 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2005/0095716 or U.S. Publication No. 2005/0095717. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Claim 35 has been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 15-16, 19-27 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0123650 in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0171226. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Claims 1 and 24-27 have been cancelled, Claims 2-4, 15, 16 and 19 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11 and Claims 31-33 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 14. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

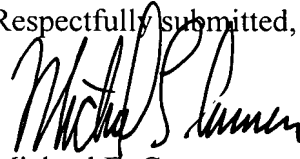
The Examiner has rejected Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kolosov et al. in view of Gatto. and further in view of Tolvanen et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,715,046. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Claims 6-9 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowed Claim 11. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kolosov et al. in view of Gatto and further in view of Garr et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,993,662. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Claims 29 and 30 have been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed moot.

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For the foregoing reasons, amended Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-23 and 31-33 as presented herein are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Carmen", written over the typed name.

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